



# Tauriq Jenkins

- HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER
- POLICY ADVISOR
- COMMUNITY ADVOCATE
- SCHOLAR

## COMPUTER SKILLS

Microsoft 365 Full Suite:  
Word, PowerPoint, Excel,  
Teams – Excellent  
Mac and PC – Fully proficient

## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Accomplished human rights defender and policy advocate with extensive experience in monitoring state compliance with constitutional and international human rights standards. Accredited Section 11 Monitor for the South African Human Rights Commission with demonstrated expertise in documenting excessive force by law enforcement, unlawful evictions, and the treatment of vulnerable communities. Combines academic rigor with grassroots activism, holding advanced degrees from Columbia University and was awarded the Mafeje PhD Scholarship, Centre for African Studies, UCT. Distinguished by two decades of leadership in civil society organisations, anti-repression advocacy, and indigenous rights protection. Seeking to leverage expertise in human rights monitoring, policy analysis, and community engagement as a Human Rights Commissioner.

Tauriq has served as a Section 11 Monitor for the South African Human Rights Commission. He is an accredited human rights defender for Frontline Defenders and a member of the Southern African Human Rights Defenders Network (SAHRDN). His work includes the monitoring and assessment of unlawful evictions, use of excessive force by Law Enforcement, Police and the military, and the treatment of street based communities, informal shack dwellers, and housing occupations, mining affected communities, heritage protection and indigenous land rights.

## HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERIENCE AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### **SOUTH AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION - ACCREDITED SECTION 11 MONITOR** 2017 – Present

- Monitor and assess unlawful evictions, use of excessive force by Law Enforcement, Police, and the military across Western Cape
- Document treatment of street-based communities, informal shack dwellers, and housing occupation cases
- Prepare monitoring reports submitted to the Commission for investigation and potential litigation

### **C19 PEOPLES COALITION - CONVENOR, ANTI-REPRESSION WORKING GROUP** 2020 – 2022

- Lead coalition of 357 social movements, trade unions, and civil society organisations monitoring state repression
- Document and analyse use of force by law enforcement, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Draft and submit reports to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) on behalf of South African civil society
- Coordinate rapid response mechanisms for human rights violations

### **FRONTLINE DEFENDERS - HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER** 2018 – Present

- Provide documentation and advocacy for human rights defenders under threat
- Participate in international solidarity networks for at-risk activists

**SOUTHERN AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS NETWORK  
(SAHRDN) - MEMBER**

**2018 – Present**

- Collaborate with regional defenders to address cross-border human rights issues
- Contribute to protective strategies for defenders in high-risk situations

**SAVE OUR SACRED LANDS - FOUNDER & CONVENER**

**2023 – Present**

- Save Our Sacred Lands (SOSL) is a campaign led by Khoi and San groups, activists, and citizens opposing the desecration of sacred land at the confluence of the Black and Liesbeek Rivers in Cape Town

**UMBRELLA CIVIC +57 - FACILITATOR**

**2025 – Present**

- Facilitate civic coordination across 57+ community organisations in Western Cape
- Strengthen civil society capacity for human rights advocacy and monitoring

**STOP THE AUCTION COALITION / UNITED FRONT - INTERIM  
COMMITTEE MEMBER**

**Feb 2026 – Present**

- Advocate against forced evictions and displacement of vulnerable communities
- Coordinate multi-sectoral response to housing rights violations

**INDIGENOUS AND ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS**

**GORINGHAICONA KHOI KHOIN TRADITIONAL INDIGENOUS  
COUNCIL - HIGH COMMISSIONER**

**2017 – Present**

- Represent the Council in national and international forums on indigenous rights
- Advocate for the recognition and protection of Khoi and San heritage and territorial rights

**AIXARRA RESTORATIVE FORUM - FOUNDING MEMBER  
& CHAIR**

**2017 – 2024**

- Established forum at the Centre for African Studies, University of Cape Town
- Chair Human Remains Commission addressing repatriation and restitution of ancestral remains
- Lead C19 Commission on pandemic impacts on indigenous communities
- Chair Land Commission addressing historical land dispossession

## **PRESSING MATTER - FELLOW**

**2024 – 2025**

- Participate in Netherlands-based indigenous scholars initiative
- Research and advocate for repatriation and restitution of sacred human remains
- Contribute to international academic and policy dialogues on colonial restitution

## **TWO RIVERS URBAN PARK ASSOCIATION - CHAIR**

**2017 – 2019**

- Led umbrella environmental body representing organisations protecting ecological and cultural landscape
- Advocated for sustainable development and conservation of cultural heritage
- Promoted environmental education and public access to natural spaces

## **SALT RIVER HERITAGE SOCIETY - ACTIVE MEMBER**

**2022 – Present**

- Contribute to preservation of cultural heritage in historically significant Cape Town community

## **OUDE MOLEN ECO-VILLAGE COMMITTEE - MEMBER**

**2021 – 2023**

- Support sustainable community development and heritage conservation

## **OTHER ORGANISATION MEMBERSHIP**

- Antarctic Alliance – Member
- Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature (GARN) – Member
- Table Mountain Rights initiative – Member

## **COMMUNITY AND CIVIC LEADERSHIP**

### **OBSERVATORY CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

- Chair (2017–2019)
- Convenor: Arts, Culture, Heritage and Sport (2019 – 2023)

### **OBSERVATORY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT - DIRECTOR**

**2011 – 2019**

- Governed urban management district serving Observatory community
- Oversaw safety, public space, and development initiatives

### **SUB-COUNCIL 16, CITY OF CAPE TOWN - WARD 57 COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE**

**2017 – 2021**

- Represented community interests in municipal governance structures
- Advocated for human rights-based approaches to local development

**SAN AND KHOI CENTRE, UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN – CO-FOUNDER WITH DR JUNE BAM AND SERVED AS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIST**

2021 – 2024

**UCT SENATE**

2022 – 2024

- Served as a member of the Senate at UCT, where he represented the Centre for African Studies and Linguistics. As a student, he was member of Student Representative Council Exco and Convener of Student Structural Governance Review (SGR), Convenor, 2002 and President of the Humanities Student Council, in 2002.

**INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM, INTERNATIONAL HOUSE, NEW YORK**

2013 –2014

- Certificate from the Graduate Program of Education of the University Caxias do Sul, Brazil in association with the Paulo Freire Institute (São, Paulo / Brazil) hosted jointly with Centre of African Studies, University of Cape Town in Decolonising Knowledge Production and Dissemination in Comparative Perspective. (2022)

**GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOLIDARITY**

**GLOBAL FLOTILLA MOVEMENT - PARTICIPANT**

2025 – Present

- Engage in international solidarity initiatives challenging maritime blockades
- Document human rights conditions in conflict zones

**MARCH TO GAZA - PARTICIPANT**

2025 – Present

- Participate in international civilian delegations to occupied Palestinian territory
- Document human rights violations and support Palestinian civil society

**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS AND RESEARCH**

**UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN**

- PhD Scholar, San and Khoi Centre, Centre for African Studies and Linguistics
- 2021 – Present: Mafeje PhD Scholarship Recipient
- Community Engagement Liaison, San and Khoi Centre
- Lecturer and Researcher
- Senate Member, Representing Centre for African Studies and Linguistics

## **RESEARCH FOCUS AREAS:**

- Heritage Protection and Repatriation
- Indigenous Rights and Traditional Knowledge Systems
- Anti-Repression and State Accountability
- Incarceration and Restorative Justice
- Arts-based Participatory Action Research

## **EDUCATION**

### **UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN / COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**

- PhD Candidate, Centre for African Studies and Linguistics (San and Khoi Centre), University of Cape Town

### **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF THE ARTS**

- Master of Fine Arts (MFA), 2015
- Oral History Merit Scholarship Award, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

### **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (SIPA)**

- International Fellows Program, 2014–2015
- Focus: US Foreign Policy

### **UNIVERSITY OF CAXIAS DO SUL, BRAZIL / PAULO FREIRE INSTITUTE**

- Certificate, Graduate Program of Education, 2022
- Decolonising Knowledge Production and Dissemination in Comparative Perspective (Hosted jointly with Centre of African Studies, University of Cape Town)

### **AL-HAQ CENTER FOR APPLIED INTERNATIONAL LAW - CERTIFICATE IN APPLIED INTERNATIONAL LAW, RAMALLAH, PALESTINE 2023**

- Alumni : Al-Haq Centre for Applied International Law Completed, International Law Programme, Al-Haq Centre for Applied International Law. Part of Al-Haq Alumni drafting team for submission to the UN Special Procedures including the UN Special Rapporteur on Occupied Palestinian Territories.

### **CERTIFICATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- Section 11 Monitor Accreditation, South African Human Rights Commission
- Applied International Law Certificate, Al-Haq Center, Ramallah
- Decolonising Knowledge Production Certificate, University of Caxias do Sul / Paulo Freire Institute
- International Leadership Program, International House, New York

## **SELECTED ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENTS**

### **GUEST LECTURER / SPEAKER / PANELIST**

- Columbia University
- New York University
- Stanford University
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Massachusetts Amherst
- City University of New York
- University of London
- Stellenbosch University
- University of Pretoria
- University of the Western Cape
- Columbia University Arts Initiative – Advisory Board Member (2013–2015)
- Columbia University, MA Oral History Students Council – Chair
- Columbia University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Student Council (GSAC)
- Executive Member; Chair of Alumni and Development, 2016
- International House, New York, Residents Council
- Chair, Alumni and Development, 2014–2015
- Presidents Cup for Outstanding Commitment, 2015

## **ARTS ACTIVISM AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**

### **INDEPENDENT THEATRE MOVEMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND FOUNDER**

**2007 – Present**

- Founded professional theatre company and drama school
- Lead Facilitator: Drama School, Shakespeare and Classical Greek (2007–2012)
- Lead Facilitator: Drama School, Creative Writing (2009–2012)
- Directed High School Masterclasses on Othello, Hamlet across Western Cape Schools (2009–2012)

### **SHAKESPEARE IN PRISON SOUTH AFRICA - FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

**2007 – Present**

- Directed, facilitated, and produced numerous Shakespeare productions in correctional facilities
- Awarded International Davis Peace Prize (2013) for groundbreaking theatre and rehabilitation work
- TEDx Talk on incarceration work: [youtube.com/watch?v=mjovM5RVozg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjovM5RVozg)

### **OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE REALM OF THEATRE AND ACTIVISM**

- Founder of the International Observatory Human Rights Film Documentary Festival, “The Right to Know Festival”
- Young in Prison (NPO) – Project Director and Lead Facilitator (2008–2009)
- Intensive Shakespeare Workshop on Julius Caesar, Bonnytoun Prison (2009)
- Shakespeare Literacy Programme, Bonnytoun Prison (2008–2009)

## **ORAL HISTORY PROJECT: “CONSCRIPTS OF APARTHEID” - DIRECTOR**

- Ongoing collaboration with Kris Marais and Maura Talbot
- Documenting white militarisation during the apartheid era

## **SLAVE LODGE EXHIBITION: “UNDER THE COVER OF DARKNESS” - INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT**

- Exhibition curator: Dr Carine Zaayman
- Addressed trans-generational trauma of indentured and slave women during Dutch East India Company administration

## **SOUTH AFRICAN THEATRE INITIATIVE (SATI) - TASK COMMITTEE MEMBER**

2009 – Present

## **PERFORMING ARTS NETWORK OF SOUTH AFRICA (PANSA)**

- Chairperson, Western Cape (2010–2012)
- National Deputy General Secretary (2005)

## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

- Mafeje PhD Scholarship – University of Cape Town (2021)
- Mayoral Award for Community Bravery – City of Cape Town (2020)
- Presidents Cup for Outstanding Commitment – International House, New York (2015)
- Oral History Merit Scholarship Award – Columbia University (2015)
- International Davis Peace Prize – Davis Projects for Peace (2013)
- South African Chess Open: National Brilliancy Award – Chess South Africa (2006)
- International Davis Peace and Diplomacy Prize – Recipient
- Projects for Peace: Shakespeare in Prison, South Africa (2014)

## **PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA**

- TEDx Talk: “Shakespeare in Prison: Rehabilitation Through the Arts”  
[youtube.com/watch?v=mjovM5RVozg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjovM5RVozg)

### **Selected Contributions:**

- UNHRC Submissions on behalf of South African Civil Society (C19 Peoples Coalition)
- Reports on Excessive Force and Policing During COVID-19
- Contributions to Heritage and Repatriation Policy Debates

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- South African Human Rights Commission – Section 11 Monitor
- Frontline Defenders – Human Rights Defender
- Southern African Human Rights Defenders Network (SAHRDN) – Member
- C19 Peoples Coalition – Convenor, Anti-Repression Working Group
- AIXARRA Restorative Forum – Chair
- SOSL – Convener
- Umbrella Civic +57 – Facilitator
- Stop the Auction Coalition / United Front – Interim Committee Member
- Global Flotilla Movement – Participant
- March to Gaza – Participant
- Goringhaicona Khoi Khoi Traditional Indigenous Council – High Commissioner
- Western Cape Khoi and San Kingdom Council – Spokesperson
- Two Rivers Urban Park Association – Member
- Salt River Heritage Society – Member
- Oude Molen Eco-Village – Member
- Observatory Civic Association – Member
- Pressing Matter – Fellow
- South African Theatre Initiative (SATI) – Task Committee Member
- Performing Arts Network of South Africa (PANSA) – Former Chairperson

## **SKILLS**

### **LANGUAGES**

- English (Fluent)
- Afrikaans (Fluent)
- Khoekhoegowab (in process)
- French (Basic)
- German (Basic)
- Latin (Basic)

### **MONITORING AND DOCUMENTATION**

- Human Rights Monitoring and Reporting
- Use of Force Documentation
- Eviction Monitoring
- Legal Observers
- UNHRC Submission Preparation

### **LEGAL KNOWLEDGE**

- International Human Rights Law
- International Humanitarian Law
- South African Constitutional Law
- Applied International Law Certificate (AI-Haq)

### **RESEARCH METHODS**

- Participatory Action Research
- Oral History Methodology
- Community-Based Research
- Archival Research
- Decolonising Methodologies

## **ARTS-BASED ADVOCACY**

- Theatre of the Oppressed Techniques
- Drama Facilitation
- Playwriting and Dramaturgy
- Oral History Documentation
- Film Festival Direction

## **SPORT AND RECREATION**

- Chess: South African Universities Speed Chess Champion; City of Olten Speed Chess Champion (Switzerland); World Open Rapid 10 mins Chess Championships (Tie First U2000 section, Washington DC, 2015)
- Western Province Colours: Target Rifle Shooting
- Martial Arts: Kickboxing, Kyokushin
- Fencing; Stage and Film Combat Training
- Cricket; Soccer (Indoor); Table Tennis; Tennis; Squash

## **REFERENCES**

### **Mametlwe Sebei**

Attorney at Lawyers for Human Rights, President of General Industrial Workers Union (GIWUSA) and SAFTU NEC member.

### **Prof June Bam**

Decolonial feminist scholar advancing indigenous knowledge and transformative education.

### **Dr Jared Sacks**

Activist, writer and academic involved in struggles for land, housing, and social justice in South Africa, playing a leading role in South African Jews for a Free Palestine (SAJFP).

### **Megan Choritz**

Human rights activist, theatre maker, actor and improviser, has served as spokesperson for South African Jews for a Free Palestine (SAJFP).

### **Cormac Cullinan**

Environmental attorney, author and leading figure in the global Rights of Nature movement. Director of Cullinan & Associates Inc, and director of the Wild Law Institute.

### **Advocate Rod Solomon**

Former Iziko Chair, former chair of the National Heritage Council, governance and culture expert, sport leader, and civil activist championing accountability and integrity.

### **Pregs Govender**

Human rights activist, author, politician, anti-apartheid activist; former ANC Member of Parliament; former Deputy Chairperson of the South African Human Rights Commission.

**Arnold Tsunga**

Former Director of the Africa Regional Programme of the International Commission of Jurists (until 2020) and previously served as the Executive Director of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights. He also acted as the Executive Secretary of the Law Society of Zimbabwe and was the National Chairperson of the Zimbabwe Human Rights Association.

**Tanya Roberts-Davis**

Policy Director at Rivers & Rights; member of Al-Haq; former Senior Campaign Manager at International Rivers; former Advocacy Coordinator at NGO Forum on African Development Bank (ADB).